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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/941,341	08/29/2001	Thomas J. Gretz	1507(ARL)	6894

30010 7590 06/19/2002

AUZVILLE JACKSON, JR.
8652 RIO GRANDE ROAD
RICHMOND, VA 23229

EXAMINER

NASRI, JAVAID H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

#2

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/941,341

Applicant(s)

GRETZ, THOMAS J.

Examiner

Javaid Nasri

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,9 and 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 4/3/2002 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Pat. No.6,194,661 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) In the specification page 1, line 3, change "and still pending" to -- now U.S. Patent 6,355,884 --.Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Neil et al.

O'Neil et al. discloses a housing (26) having a cylindrical outbound end and an inbound end, and an interior linking both ends, a tubular spring steel cable retainer secured in the inbound

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end, the retainer including a set of inwardly extending tangs to receive and engage an armored cable (see figure 5) inserted from the inbound end and guide the cable toward the cylindrical outbound end in a manner that separate cables are advanced to the outbound end without mutual interference, the inwardly extending tangs restricting removal of the cable by force applied to the cable from the inbound end, and a tubular spring steel adapter (20) secured to the cylindrical outbound end of the housing, the adapter having outwardly extending tangs, the interior channel includes smooth surface, the cylindrical outbound end includes a smooth outer circumference and a flange on its outermost end to retain the tubular spring steel adapter after the adapter is expanded and slipped over the flange,

However, O'Neil et al. does not disclose:

- a) a generally oval inbound end. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to for inbound end to be oval shaped, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size or shape of a component. A change in size or shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).
- b) a view window with polymeric panel. Official notice is taken bodies having a view window with a cover are well known in the electrical connector art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to modify O'Neil et al to have a view window with polymeric panel to do inside inspection.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reason for allowance of the claims is the inclusion of the limitation,

- a) for claims 2 and 3, the insert comprises a pair of parallel cylindrical apertures,
- b) for claim 4, the inbound end the housing includes a pair of parallel cylindrical apertures,
- c) for claim 9, the three tangs spaced 90 degrees apart covering 180 degrees and rest of the 180 degrees is open and defines a cable passageway,

in combination with other limitations in the claim which is not found in the prior art reference of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javaid Nasri whose telephone number is 703 308 5876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 703 308 3119. The fax phone numbers for the


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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 308 7722 for regular communications and 703 308 7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 0956.


Javaid Nasri
Examiner
Art Unit 2839

JN

jhn
June 14, 2002